

Message Text

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13

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FROM AGRICULTURAL OFFICER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR CH

SUBJECT: PRC INDUSTRIAL CROP HARVEST RESULTS FOR 1974.

FOLLOWING SENT USDA/FAS WASHDC FROM HONG KONG DATED JANUARY
15, 1975 REPEATED YOU:

QUOTE

UNCLAS HONG KONG 0546

TOFAS 12

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR CH

SUBJECT: PRC INDUSTRIAL CROP HARVEST RESULTS FOR 1974.

REF: (A) TOFAS 175

(B) FASTO 69

(C) TOFAS 78

FOR: FCA, COTTON, F&O, S&TP DIVISIONS FROM AG OFFICER

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1. AN ASSESSMENT OF DECEMBER 29 NCNA REPORT, APPEARING IN DECEMBER

30 EDITIONS OF TA KUNG PAO AND WEN HUI PAO, HONG KONG, AND DECEMBER 31 NCNA REPORT, INDICATES THAT CHINA'S 1974 COTTON PRODUCTION PROBABLY

FELL SLIGHTLY BELOW 1973, BAST FIBER PRODUCTION INCREASED, AND HARVESTS

OF MOST OTHER INDUSTRIAL CROPS WERE "GOOD". SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED WERE COTTON, OILSEEDS AND SUGAR CROPS (REFERRED TO AS CHINA'S MAJOR INDUSTRIAL CROPS), BAST FIBERS AND OTHERS. REPORTS STRESSED THAT THOSE RESULTS WERE ACHIEVED ALONGSIDE RECORD GRAIN HARVEST IN 1974.

2. AMONG CLAIMS: (A) COTTON -- GOOD RESULTS ATTAINED DESPITE DROUGHT, WATERLOGGING, LOW TEMPERATURES AND OTHER NATURAL ADVERSITIES. THE MAJOR COTTON AREAS INCREASED PRODUCTION AND NUMBER OF AREAS GAVE HIGH YIELDS. 1973 WAS REFERRED TO AS RECORD YEAR FOR COTTON; (B) OILSEEDS -- INCREASED IN TOTAL PRODUCTION WITH RAPE PRODUCTION IN SHANGHAI HIGHLIGHTED; (C) SUGAR CROPS -- 1974 PRODUCTION 30 PERCENT ABOVE 1971; (D) BAST FIBERS -- 1974 JUTE AND HEMP PRODUCTION 10 PERCENT ABOVE 1973, WHICH WAS DOUBLE 1972 WHICH, IN TURN, WAS DOUBLE 1971. CHINESE NOW SELF-SUFFICIENT IN BAST FIBERS;

3. STRESS ALSO PLACED ON IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AS SOURCE OF RAW MATERIALS FOR LIGHT INDUSTRY, NEED FOR PROPORTIONATE PRODUCTION OF GRAIN AND INDUSTRIAL CROPS AND MAXIMUM USE OF RECLAIMED WASTE LAND FOR INDUSTRIAL CROP PRODUCTION. SUPPORT ROLE OF STATE ALSO STRESSED (E.G. IN PROVIDING FARM MACHINERY AND AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS, IN DELIVERING FOOD GRAINS TO SPECIALIZED NON-GRAIN CROP PRODUCING AREAS, AND IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT).

4. COMMENT: COTTON -- ACCORDING NCNA REPORTS, BOTH YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF COTTON "APPROXIMATED" 1973 LEVEL. STUDY OF NCNA RELEASES SUGGESTS THAT 1974 COTTON CROP WAS NOT QUITE AS GOOD AS 1973 CROP, ALTHOUGH REPORTS IMPLY THAT 1974 PLANTED AREA WAS AT APPROXIMATELY SAME LEVEL AS 1973. PRODUCTION INCREASES WERE ACHIEVED IN PROVINCES ACCOUNTING FOR MORE THAN HALF OF TOTAL COTTON AREA WHICH IN PART OFFSET SHORTFALLS IN OTHER PROVINCES.

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5. AS RESULT, AG OFFICE PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF 1974 COTTON PRODUCTION IS 2.15 MILLION METRIC TONS (CLOSE TO 9,900,000 BALES OF 480 POUNDS NET), SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 4 PERCENT BELOW OUR ORIGINAL ESTIMATE OF 2.25 MILLION M.T. (10,330,000 BALES) FOR 1973 (REF C), WHICH WAS DELIBERATELY CONSERVATIVE FIGURE. THAT FIGURE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY LOWERED AT SUGGESTION OF FAS COTTON DIVISION (REF B) TO CONFORM TO THEIR LONG-TERM SERIES. AG OFFICE, HOWEVER, PREFERS TO MAINTAIN ITS

ORIGINAL ESTIMATE FOR 1973. IN FACT, EXAMINATION OF PROVINCIAL DATA INDICATES THAT OUR SERIES IS PROBABLY ON LOW SIDE, ALTHOUGH YEAR-TO-YEAR RELATIONSHIPS APPEAR TO BE SATISFACTORY. ALSO OF INTEREST IS RECENT CLAIM IN HK COMMUNIST NEW EVENING POST OF JAN 6, 1975 THAT PRC'S 1974 COTTON CROP WAS 6 TIMES SIZE OF 1949 CROP OF 444,500 M.T.; I.E., 2.67 MILLION M.T., WHICH NOT ONLY IS MUCH HIGHER (520,000 M.T. HIGHER) THAN OUR ESTIMATE FOR 1974, BUT CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN OUR ESTIMATE FOR RECORD 1973 HARVEST.

6. OILSEEDS -- (WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPARATE REPORT.)

7. SUGAR CROPS -- BASED ON ESTIMATE OF 1971 SUGAR PRODUCTION AT 1.5 - 1.8 MILLION M.T., AND ASSUMING SUGAR PRODUCTION WOULD INCREASE AT APPROXIMATELY SAME RATE AS SUGAR CROP (BEET AND CANE) PRODUCTION, 30-PERCENT INCREASE RESULTS IN ESTIMATED SUGAR PRODUCTION OF 2.0 - 2.3 MILLION M.T. FOR 1974.

8. BAST FIBERS -- PRODUCTION OF BAST FIBERS, PRIMARILY JUTE, IN 1974 IS ESTIMATED AT 675,000 M.T., 1973 AT 600,000 M.T. AND 1971 AT 300,000 M.T., (APPROXIMATELY SAME LEVEL AS 1952 PRODUCTION. CHAMPEAU

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